

House Bill #1222**Favorable with Amendments****Title: Maryland Values Act (including HB #1431)****Judiciary Committee: Luke Clippinger, Chair****Testimony submitted by Miner Brown of District 11B**

(A CASA Ally, Social Action Advocacy Committee, Chizuk Amuno Congregation, Pikesville, MD)

In the Jewish faith, we believe that we have a moral obligation to provide assistance and support to all strangers as “We were once strangers in the land of Egypt.” **It is no secret that our immigrant neighbors, friends, and service providers are under attack!** When they are under attack we are all under attack.

It is also no secret that immigrant families are indispensable to the economy and tax support to the State of Maryland being 17% of our population with the 4th largest State population per capita in the country. They often must perform various work that others refuse to do. And, they pay taxes and into Social Security without receiving benefits.

The following bills attempt to create laws for all our community members so they can have safe access to basic services and support without fear and reprisal in the wake of the litany of cruel Presidential Executive Orders targeting immigrants:

1. **Maryland Values Act (HB1222)**- This legislation ends harmful 287(g) agreements held by several counties that allow local police (usually county sheriffs) to act as ICE agents.
2. **Maryland Data Privacy Act (HB1431)**- This bill will stop ICE from accessing state and local data of immigrant Marylanders without warrant.

With President Trump’s litany of Executive Orders signed on January 20, 2025, several draconian actions such as removing immigrant protections, arranging to deputize County sheriffs as ICE agents in some locations, freezing new immigrants from coming into the country, initiated forced deportations leading to the break-up of immigrant and immigrant/American-citizen families, and rescinded a policy that protected certain areas- such as schools, houses of worship, and hospital from immigrant enforcement humanely established by President Biden. **Critical for the safety of immigrant families, these inhumane actions are just wrong to assist in any way, the Federal government from taking such actions.**

One last note of the lack of empathy and care for the wellbeing of others shown by The President. On January 20th, by another executive order signed by Trump, he suspended the entry program and canceled incoming travel arrangements for about 10,000 approved refugees. Separately, the administration ordered outside resettlement agencies receiving federal funds to stop providing services to refugees who are now here. Currently, there are now families living in Maryland having no idea if or when they will ever see their relatives again who are legally waiting to come here to be reunited with their families.

Time is of the essences in approving this legislation to protect our neighbors. **Thank you for your support in trying to bringing some sanity and peace back to our State through the passage of these Bills.**

Miner L. (Moe) Brown (District 11B)